

AUGUST EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH

MT. MEIGS CAMPUS

Mr. JaCorey Tarver



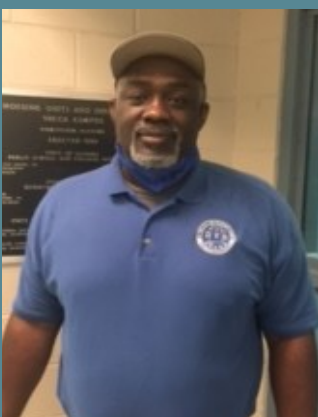
AUTAUGA CAMPUS

Mr. Thomas Jordan



VACCA CAMPUS

Mr. David Easter



ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH SERVICES

September 2021 Newsletter

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Greetings,

I hope this newsletter finds you and your family doing well. Welcome to September! I know it is all in my mind but I just feel a little cooler on September 1st having said goodbye to August. Besides the weather, the beginning of a new school year and the start of football all signal that Fall is not far away.

This will continue to be a busy time for our department. In an effort to hire additional staff at our facilities, we have added an additional New Employee Orientation this month. We hope to see dozens of new faces across our facilities. This Fall we will also introduce the new de-escalation and physical intervention training called The Mandt System. We also plan to have our first class enrolled in the DYS Leadership Academy in November.

Besides these new initiatives we will also participate in our traditional Fall activities such as State Combined Campaign, College Football Fridays, Writing Our Stories, Graduations, and Fall Festivals. Be sure to look for more information on these events.

Last week on Mt. Meigs Campus, a number of us were able to celebrate the accomplishment of our first class of youth who completed the N2Work basic culinary prep and safety class. While it was appropriate to acknowledge the youth's accomplishment, for many of us, we were also celebrating the long road from an *idea* to a meaningful program. I reflected on all the meetings, phone calls, training, and preparation performed by key leaders on the campus and the numerous staff that invested and supported them along the way. It can be a challenge to onboard new programs and services on our campuses, but they are vital to our youth's experience of rehabilitative justice offered by DYS. Likewise, it is vital for our staff and teachers to experience themselves as "change agents" who can make a difference in the lives of young people. Transformation has always been about the relationships. The programs are merely the vehicles to support these relationships.

May God give us all strength to continue to labor in this field.

In appreciation,

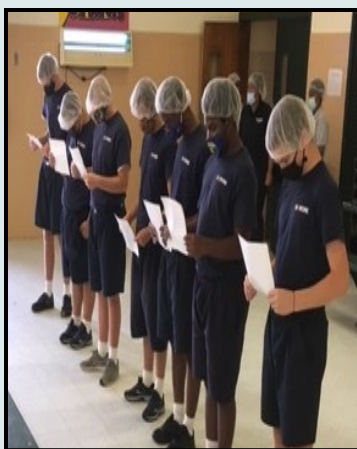
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven A. Lafreniere".

Steven Lafreniere

DYS Highlights

Mt. Meigs Celebrates the 1st Graduating Class for IN2WORK

On Friday, August 27th, the Mt. Meigs Campus celebrated the first graduating class of the IN2WORK Program. The IN2WORK Program consists of 9 modules that include the following: Personal Hygiene, Kitchen Sanitation and Cleanliness, Food Handling, Storage and Rotation, Temperature for Food Safety, Kitchen Equipment, Tools and Terminology, Safety, Recipes, Prep Sheets and Pull Process, and Success in the Food Service Industry. The graduation honored 7 students who successfully completed all of the modules and passed the final exam. A new class will begin the IN2WORK Program the first Friday in October. We are thankful to have this wonderful program on our campus.



Honoring Student Success



The DYS School District has always tried to award our students for academic achievement. This year the School District has purchased ribbons and honor journals for the students. At L.B. Wallace School on the Mt. Meigs Campus, honor roll students will receive honor ribbons and journals for earning A, A/B, or B honor roll throughout the 2021-2022 academic school year.

Students will receive these awards during the Parade of Honors, Chew and Chat, or Honors Day Program. At the McNeel School on the Vacca Campus, the School District will present the honorees with ribbons and honor journals during the Honor Ceremony at the end of each nine weeks.

DYS Highlights

DYS Seeks Applications for Employee of the Year

The Alabama Dept. of Youth Services is seeking applications for the DYS Employee of the Year. The DYS Employee of the Year award recognizes an employee that goes “above and beyond” his or her normal job duties to accomplish something exceptional. This person should be exemplary in attendance, attitude, dedication, effort, effectiveness, and resourcefulness. Nominations are open to employees from all classifications. The employee must have two or more years of service with the agency. ***An example of the application is included on page 4 of this newsletter.***

- Nomination forms must be completed and submitted by September 17, 2021
- Nomination forms must be submitted to the campus DYS Employee Council representative

Council Members

Autauga - Anthony Jackson

Mt. Meigs - Michelle Archie, Tonya Dorn, Kelvin Hampton, and Roosevelt Walker

Vacca - Erica Alexander, Eva Stowers, and Eric Wright



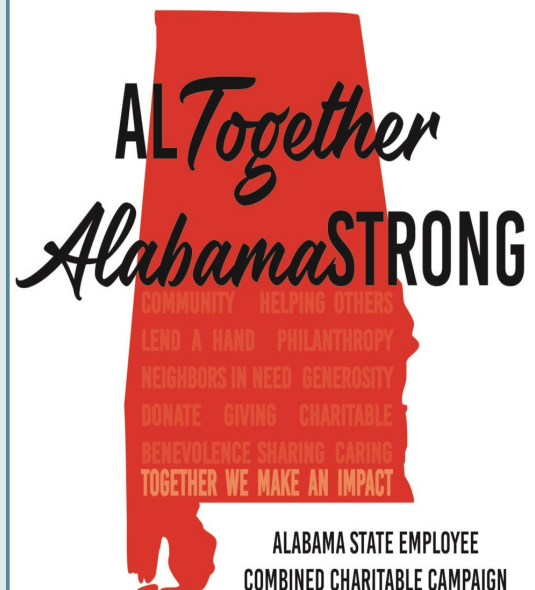
Get Ready for COLLEGE FOOTBALL FRIDAYS at DYS!

Starting this Friday, September 3rd, staff can wear their favorite football team colors! Every Friday throughout football season, Fridays will be known as Football Friday and staff are free to wear their team colors.

The DYS State Combined Campaign Kicks Off Soon!

The Alabama State Employee Combined Charitable Campaign began in 1993. Since then, Alabama's State Employees have donated more than \$18 million to SCC charitable organizations. The State Combined Campaign is the only way Alabama's State Employees can give to their favorite charity or charities through payroll deduction. The minimum amount through payroll deduction is \$1.00 per month and the maximum number of deductions is 12 deductions. Payroll deduction will begin with the first paycheck in 2022.

DYS is tentatively scheduled to host the agency's virtual kick off on Thursday, September 16th. Door prizes will be available. **A special thank you to Ms. Chanda Leshoure for organizing our campaign every year!**



Please Type Your Nominee Information Below